

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 02433 091553Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----091901Z 111329 /40

R 091544Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5462
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

S E C R E T BONN 02433

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-1
TAGS: TECH, PARM, GW, NL, BR
SUBJECT: URENCO CENTRIFUGE PROJECT AND CONCERNS ABOUT
BRAZIL

REF: BONN 01219

1. DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO BONN VAN LYNDEN CAME TO SEE
ME RECENTLY TO DISCUSS VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BONN.
HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN US-FRG DISCUSSIONS
CONCERNING FRG-BRAZIL AGREEMENT AND THE PRESENT STATE
OF PLAY REGARDING OUR CONSULTATIONS. I RESPONDED IN
GENERAL TERMS, NOTING THE HERMES VISIT TO WASHINGTON
AND OUR INITIATION OF CONTACTS WITH BRAZIL.

2. THE AMBASSADOR THEN RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE UK-
FRG-DUTCH CENTRIFUGE PROJECT (URENCO) AND REPEATED
DUTCH CONCERNS ABOUT IT. IN PARTICULAR, HE SAID THAT
THE DUTCH ARE WORRIED AS TO WHAT BRAZIL MIGHT DO WITH
THE LOW-ENRICHMENT URANIUM PRODUCED BY THE CENTRIFUGES.
HE SAID THE DUTCH SHARE OUR CONCERNS ABOUT PLUTONIUM
BEING LEFT IN THE HANDS OF THE BRAZILIANS; HE THOUGHT
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HIS MINISTERS WERE ANXIOUS TO WORK OUT SOME WAY TO RE-
MOVE THE PLUTONIUM FROM THE DIRECT CONTROL OF BRAZIL.
HE SPECULATED THAT ONE POSSIBLE APPROACH WOULD BE TO
MAKE THE IAEA RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING AND CONTROL OF
THE PLUTONIUM, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WOULD
INVOLVE A NEW ROLE FOR THE IAEA WHICH COULD PROVE TO
BE A COMPLICATION.

3. THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN SAID THAT THE DUTCH FOUND MATTHOEFER AND HERMES TOUGH IN THEIR ATTITUDES AND SEEMINGLY NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS, WHICH ARE MORE AND MORE PREOCCUPYING FOR THE DUTCH. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US GOVERNMENT SOON WOULD ENTER INTO TALKS WITH THE DUTCH. HE THOUGHT SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE USEFUL IN VIEW OF THE APPARENT SIMILARITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ON NON-PROLIFERATION MATTERS.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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